



## Statewide CWD surveillance of wild deer

The DNR is gearing up for the largest statewide deer herd testing plan in history. DNR is committed to sampling about 50,000 deer from around the state beginning this fall as part of its CWD surveillance program.

Tissue samples will be taken from all deer in the intensive harvest zone, and from 500 deer per deer management unit (DMU) in the CWD management zone. Samples will also be taken from over 500 deer per county, or county groups where harvests are generally low, in the rest of the state. The ambitious testing program is designed to tell biologists with confidence whether or not the disease exists in a county.

Most of the statewide sampling will take place during the Oct. 24-27 Zone T hunt and the opening weekend (Nov. 23-24) of the nine-day gun season.

### Goal:

The goal of the statewide testing plan is to determine with great confidence where chronic wasting disease is present in the wild deer herd of Wisconsin. Results will give hunters a high degree of assurance of the absence or presence of the disease in the area where they hunt. Over 50,000 deer will be collected and sampled statewide.

### The three-tiered collection process:

- **Tier 1 – The intensive harvest zone**

The most intensive testing taking place within the CWD intensive harvest zone where **every deer** harvested during the special summer landowner shooting periods and during the October through January gun hunt will be sampled.

- **Tier 2 – The CWD management zone**

Approximately 500 deer over 18 months of age from each deer management unit will be sampled in the larger CWD management zone, which extends about 40 miles out from the center of the infection. Sampling in this zone will be heaviest in October and November.

- **Tier 3 – The out-state area**

Approximately 500 deer over the age of 18 months will be tested for CWD from the remaining counties in the state. Some counties, where deer harvests are traditionally light, will be lumped together for the 500 deer sample (see map). Deer heads will be removed for sampling at selected registration/sampling stations. Some stations will be collecting samples during the Oct. 24-27 Zone T hunt (where applicable) and some will be staffed during the November opening weekend.

County-level collection stations will be identified in the next several weeks and will be publicized. Plans are being worked out for sampling trophy bucks shot in the intensive harvest zone so hunters can keep the heads for taxidermy. It will not be possible to provide special tissue collection services for trophy bucks outside of the intensive harvest zone. In these areas, the entire head must be donated.

Not every hunter will have an opportunity to volunteer a tissue sample from his or her deer. Wildlife officials will be seeking to collect samples from deer from throughout the county to help ensure a diverse sample. This will help insure the testing gives a high degree of confidence in the overall results.

Wildlife officials point out that it could take up to six months for all sample results to be received; hunters may choose to wrap and store their venison until results come in. Hunters will be able to access a confidential CWD testing results site via an Internet site or 1-800 telephone number. Information on how to access the service will be given at the time of sampling.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Hauge (608) 266-2193 or Bill Vander Zouwen (608)266-8840**

